

03/18/05

**ATTENTION:**

**EXAMINER Shay L. Balsis**  
FAX: 703-872-9306

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# of Pages : 10  
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**FROM:**

**Nadia Afi Edoh**  
FAX: 978-274-5953

**APPLICATION #: 10/708,214**  
**FILING DATE: 02/17/2004**  
**FIRST NAMED INVENTOR: Nadia Afi Edoh**  
**CONFIRMATION NO.: 2213**

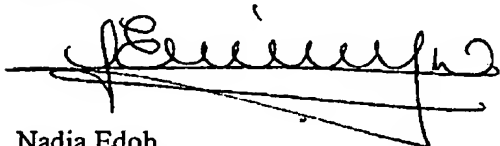
**RE:**

**RESPONSE TO COMMUNICATION MAILED ON 12/21/04 CONCERNING  
THIS APPLICATION**

Dear Shay Balsis,  
Please find attached my response to the Office Action Summary I received from you.  
I had initially filled my application online, but am submitting all corrections to you via  
fax as you suggested during my call to you on Monday, March 07, 2005.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,



Nadia Edoh  
978-235-5350

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

References cited on form PTO-892, therefore, they've been considered

**DRAWINGS**

Reference characters included as part of the detailed description. See attached correction of Specification.

**SPECIFICATION****Brief Description Of Drawings**

Brief description edited to be brief. First sentence of existing suffice. The rest incorporated as part of the Detailed Description. See attached correction of Specification.

**CLAIM OBJECTIONS**

1 - Claims can only be one sentence long. The "note" part of claims 1 and 2 are improper and have been removed. See attached correction of Specification.

2 - Claim 1 fixed to address the following:

Limitation: "the entire front surface" in line 6, insufficient antecedent

Limitation: "the thumb and finger stalls of the glove" in lines 7-8, insufficient antecedent

Limitation: "the sides of the palm" in line 10, insufficient antecedent

Limitation: "the tips of all the said stalls" in line 12, insufficient antecedent

Limitation: "the sides of all the said stalls" in line 14, insufficient antecedent

See attached correction of Specification.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 102**

Claims 1- 3 rejected as being anticipated by Perez in 5720048

Claims 1- 3 rejected as being anticipated by Carr in 5765252

Claims 1- 3 rejected as being anticipated by Borucki-Mastej in 6000060

Claims 1- 3 rejected as being anticipated by Guzman in 6016571

Patent # 5720048, Patent # 5765252, Patent # 6000060, and Patent # 6016571 are different from my invention and are not anticipated. The "REMARKS I" section below details how my invention is different from the mentioned patents and explains how these differences represent limitations for the 4 patents listed above.

**REMARKS I****Mentioned patents fall short from my invention:**

Patent # 5720048, Patent # 5765252, Patent # 6000060, and Patent # 6016571 which were cited as reasons for rejections of claims 1-3 of my invention, are all similar to each other and somewhat to my invention in that they consist of a waterproof glove which has some type of cleaning material, bristles in particular, on its surface. However, in their current form, they are different and all fall short of my invention in that they do not meet

my needs. They all have limitations which do not allow these patents to effectively nor efficiently meet the intended uses or purposes of my invention.

A major difference between the above patents and my invention is the type of coverage, location of coverage and the types of cleaning actions, which can be performed with my invention and cannot be performed with Patent # 5720048, Patent # 5765252, Patent # 6000060, and Patent # 6016571.

A key component of my invention is that a user will be able to reach and clean any area or surface which any part of a human hand (front surface, fingers, fingertips, sides of fingers and side of palm) can reach while taking advantage of all the natural movements of a hand, thus increasing the efficiency of the cleaning action. This cannot be achieved by the inventions mentioned in Patent # 5720048, Patent # 5765252, Patent # 6000060, and Patent # 6016571 due to their limitations, which are highlighted below.

Instead of having a uniform coverage of bristles along the surface of the glove, my invention has various types of coverage, which takes into consideration the natural shape, and functionality of the hand, as well as the intended surface to be cleaned.

**Limitations of Patent # 5720048:**

Patent # 5720048 is different from my invention in that:

- It does not have Bristle Coverage along the tips of the finger stalls
- It does not have Bristle Coverage along the sides of the finger stalls.

These are all important limitations, which are detailed in the sections below.

**Limitations of Patent # 5765252:**

Patent # 5765252 is different from my invention in that:

- It only has Partial Palm Coverage of Bristles
- It does not have Bristle Coverage along the sides of the palm
- It does not have Bristle Coverage along the sides of the finger stalls

These are all important limitations, which are detailed in the sections below.

**Limitations of Patent # 6000060:**

Patent # 6000060 is different from my invention in that:

- It does not have Bristle Coverage along the tips of the finger stalls
- It does not have Bristle Coverage along the sides of the palm
- It does not have Bristle Coverage along the sides of the finger stalls

These are all important limitations, which are detailed in the sections below.

**Limitations of Patent # 6016571:**

Patent # 6016571 is different from my invention in that:

Only tips of fingers have bristles that extend 180 degrees around the tips as stated in claim 3, and only the side section of glove has bristle coverage which wraps 90 degree around the side which corresponds to the palm as stated in claim 4.

- It only has Partial Palm Coverage of Bristles
- It does not have Bristle Coverage along the sides of the finger stalls.

These are all important limitations, which are detailed in the sections below.

**Detailed explanation of how the above limitations fall short of my invention and limit the effectiveness of the cleaning action**

- Only Partial Palm Coverage of Bristles

Falls short from my invention in that this partial palm coverage limits the effectiveness of the cleaning action, as I believe it is possible to achieve optimum cleaning with greater ease when a cleaning supply mimics the natural movements and shape of the body part, namely the hand. Partial coverage of bristles on the palm also seems unnatural as the entire surface of the hand cannot be used when applying pressure to clean a surface. My invention is more effective as it uses the entire surface of the palm when performing a cleaning action. It is also easier to apply greater force when using the lower portion of the palm than it is when using the upper portion. Just as you would achieve maximum results with using the entire surface of a hand to clean a surface instead of just a partial surface, same thing holds true when bristles cover the entire surface of the glove which my invention does.

- No Bristle Coverage along the sides of the palm

This falls short of my invention, which has bristles along the sides of the palm. The absence of bristles along the sides of the palm limits the effectiveness and types of cleaning actions which can be performed. Having bristles along the sides of the palm allows and improves the cleaning of lines between tiles on a bathroom wall or areas of the kitchen for example

- No Bristle Coverage along the sides of the finger stalls

This falls short of my invention, which has bristles along the sides of all finger stalls. This improves the effectiveness of the cleaning action and increases the types of cleaning actions as there are more surfaces of the glove which have various shapes and which can access many more cleaning surfaces. For example, one can achieve more effective and quicker cleaning results of a the surfaces between a pole and sides of a tub by placing their hand around the pole and close to the connecting surface, and making a circle by joining the tips of the thumb and index fingers, then moving their the formed circle in a somewhat circular motion. This will allow for the bristles located along the sides of thumb and index finger stalls to easily and effectively clean that otherwise hard to clean surface.

Another example of how having bristles along the sides of all finger stalls will improve and increase the types of cleaning actions is with the contour of a faucet Nose. The nose in certain conditions can develop mold or other dirty agents along its contour. With my invention, the user could form a circle by joining the tips of the thumb and index fingers in a circular shape, the tightening it around the faucet not so that the bristles along the sides of the thumb and index finger stalls are against the contour and scrub it when moving them in circular motions. Having bristles along the sides of the finger stalls will also allow and facilitate the cleaning of surfaces that have more than one dimension.

- No Bristle Coverage along the tips of the finger stalls

Falls short from my invention in that it is unable of using the natural scratching motion one can use with fingernails in a cleaning action as there are no bristles along the tips of the finger stalls. On the contrary, my invention improves the ease of cleaning and is intended to mimic the fingernail or action that would come naturally with using the fingernail. Just as you would use your finger and finger nails to scratch and clean hard to reach spaces, in the same way are the bristles, which are located at the end of the finger stalls intended to facilitate, improve and permit cleaning of hard to reach spots, in a scratching motion, without getting ones fingernails dirty.

#### **CONCLUSION**

These are all limitations that the previous inventions have and which make my invention not only different, but also more effective as a cleaning device as it increases the types of cleaning action and the effectiveness with which they are accomplished.

#### **CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 103**

Claim 4 rejected as being unpatentable over Perez in 5720048

Claim 4 rejected as being unpatentable over Carr in 5765252

Claim 4 rejected as being unpatentable over Borucki-Mastej in 6000060

Claim 4 rejected as being unpatentable over Guzman in 6016571

Because Patent # 5720048, Patent # 5765252, Patent # 6000060, and Patent # 6016571 are different from my invention as detailed under the REMARKS I section above, I believe it no longer makes claim 4 of my invention obvious as claims 1-3 are different and unique to my invention, thus making claim 4 significant in that it helps solve a stated problem, many of which are stated in the REMARKS I section.

# SPECIFICATION

[Electronic Version 1.2.8]

[Waterproof scrubbing glove]

## Background of Invention

[0001] Many of today's devices that are used to clean and scrub surfaces are not attached to gloves; but are rather stand alone products, which require the user to grip them independently with their hands. A shortcoming associated with this is that the device has a tendency of slipping or falling out of the user's hand when cleaning. Another shortcoming with this is that when a user grips on to this device to clean a surface, extra pressure is required on the part of the user to scrub and clean the surface because of the added force needed to hold on to this device while at the same time applying sufficient pressure to clean a surface. This would be particularly difficult for someone who is suffering from joint problems, arthritis for example.

[0002] Many of today's existing technologies of scrubbing brushes and similar cleaning devices have awkward shapes and limited flexibility. Bathtubs, tiles in bathrooms, and sinks for example, have hard to reach spaces and often awkward shapes. Existing scrub brushes tend to have their bristles set on a hard surface which makes the overall brush inflexible, therefore very hard if not impossible to bend and flex to reach the awkward shapes and clean hard to reach spaces.

[0003] In addition to these standalone scrubbing devices, there are other cleaning devices that have attachments to mitts or gloves which fulfill their intended purpose, but which still expose shortcomings such as partial coverage on the glove limiting the effectiveness of the cleaning and the cleaning of hard to reach spaces; the materials used as attachments and the way in which the scouring device is attached.

[0004] Examples of existing cleaning gloves include U.S. Patent # 5956770, U.S. Patent # 6000060, U.S. Patent # 6018837, and U.S. Patent # 6513998.

## Summary of Invention

[0005] The present invention is a waterproof scrubbing glove which has scrubbing bristles built into the structure of the glove, as to allow the user to perform a variety of cleaning actions without the need to grip onto an external cleaning device, such as a brush, thus preventing the items from falling out of the user's hand, preventing additional strain to the joints and necessitating less force on the part of the user to perform scrubbing actions. The glove is flexible and the scrubbing bristles cover the entire palm and finger portions of the glove, the sides of the palm and finger stalls, as well as the tips of the finger stalls thus facilitating the cleaning of hard to reach places and awkward spaces.

## Brief Description of Drawings

- [0006] 1-Figure 1 shows a front view of the waterproof scrubbing glove for this invention.
- [0007] 2- Figure 2 shows a side view of the waterproof scrubbing glove for this invention.
- [0008] 3-Figure 3 shows another front view of a different type of glove for this invention.

## Detailed Description

- [0009] Figure 1, which describes the most common embodiment of the waterproof scrubbing glove for this invention, shows a front view of the glove that has 1 thumb stall and 4 finger stalls with bristles covering the entire front surface of the glove 1c shown in fig. 1, and bristles at the tips of the finger stalls 1b shown in fig. 1, and along the sides of the palm 1a shown in fig. 1.
- [0010] Figure 2 shows a side view of the waterproof scrubbing glove. This view shows the flexibility of the glove and displays a side view of the finger stalls which have bristles covering the surface of all stalls 2a shown in fig. 3, bristles covering the front surface of the palm area 2c shown in fig. 2, as well as bristles at the tips of the finger and thumb stalls 2b shown in fig. 2.
- [0011] Figure 3 shows the front view of another embodiment of this invention. The glove has 1 thumb stall, one stall which holds all 4 fingers, and bristles covering the entire front surface of the glove 3a of fig. 3. There are bristles at the tips of both stalls 3b and 3c shown in fig. 3, along their sides, and along the sides of the palm portion of the glove as shown in fig. 3.
- [0012] The density of the coverage of bristles for all embodiments of this invention can be similar to that found on some standalone brushes, toothbrushes, and alike.
- [0013] Taking into consideration the foregone shortcomings with the existing technology, the present invention is a stain and dirt removal waterproof scrub glove. The glove has 0.1 to 20mm, preferably 1 to 10mm, of brush made up of bristles, which can be made of at least one of either synthetic fiber, metal fiber and other material and which covers the surface of the glove 1c shown in fig.1, 2c shown in fig. 2, and 3a shown in fig. 3. Examples of other synthetic fibers that can be used for the bristle on the surface of the glove include polyamide fiber, polyolefin fiber, polyester fiber and others. These materials are built into the glove structure 1a, 1b, 1c as shown in fig. 1; 2a, 2b, 2c as shown in fig. 2; and 3a, 3b, 3c as shown in fig. 3. The glove is waterproof and covers the entire surface of a person's hand including the thumb and finger stalls. The scrubbing material can cover the entire hand portion of the glove, which includes the palm surface of the glove 1c shown in fig. 1, 2c shown in fig. 2, 3a shown in fig. 3, as well as the side of the palm 1a shown in fig. 1, 3c shown in fig. 3; as well as the sides and tips of the finger stalls including the thumb stall 1b shown in fig. 1, 2b shown in fig. 2, 3b shown in fig. 3. An example of uses for the side palm bristles 1a shown in fig. 1 is that it can be used to apply direct pressure to clean the lines between tiles, and

the bristles located at the tips of finger stalls 1b shown in fig. 1; 2b shown in fig. 2; 3b shown in fig. 3, can be used to clean tight corners and spaces between tiles and the tight spots around a sink faucet, etc.

[0014] Because the bristles are built into the structure of the glove as shown in fig. 1, fig. 2 and fig. 3, which covers the users hand, the shortcomings associated with the cleaning actions which are normally performed with a stand alone brush and which include having the brush slipping or falling out of the users' hand when cleaning, will be eliminated as the bristles and glove are now one unit as shown in fig. 1, fig. 2 and fig. 3.

[0015] As the bristles cover the surface of the glove which contours the users' hand, the cleaning action performed by the described invention will be more natural, versatile, and efficient as the hand is flexible and the natural movements of the hand will allow the user to clean various shaped objects and surfaces, as well as hard to reach places that a regular brush cannot reach but that the hand can. The bristles at the tips of the finger stalls 1b as shown in fig. 1; 2b as shown in fig. 2; 3b as shown in fig. 3, will allow the user to clean tight spaces that only a finger can reach and apply pressure to, such as the corner between a tub and the tile wall or the lines between tiles. The described invention will also make it easier for people that suffer with joint problems to use by as they can avoid using extra pressure, which is usually needed when gripping onto an external brush device.

[0016] Though, the described invention has an optimal use for bathrooms to clean showers, tubs and sinks, and for the kitchen, its use is not limited to the like and includes many other uses.

## Claims

[c1]

My Invention claims:

A waterproof scrubbing glove comprising:

-A flexible waterproof glove for encapsulating a human hand, having a front surface which includes a palm surface, a plurality of stalls for the thumb and fingers which include tip surfaces for the stalls, side surfaces of the palm, side surfaces of the thumb and finger stalls, and a back surface

-Scrubbing bristles covering the entire front surface of the glove, which includes the palm surface, and the thumb and finger stalls of the glove, all in a continuous coverage and built into the glove structure

-Scrubbing bristles that cover the sides of the palm and built into the glove structure

-Scrubbing bristles that cover the tips of all of the said stalls and built into the glove structure  
Scrubbing bristles that cover the sides of all of the said stalls and built into the glove structure

[c2]



[Claim Reference to claim 1]The waterproof scrubbing glove of claim 1, wherein said waterproof glove is composed of at least one of either rubber, leather, plastics, nylon, and other materials.

[Claim Reference to claim 1]The waterproof scrubbing glove of claim 1, wherein said bristles is composed of at least one of either nylon, synthetic fiber, steel, plastics and other materials.

[Claim Reference to claim 1]The waterproof scrubbing glove of claim 1, wherein said bristles are between the lengths of 0.1 to 20mm, preferably 1 to 10mm.

## Abstract of Disclosure

[0017] A flexible waterproof scrubbing glove having a plurality of cavities for the thumb and fingers joined together to fit a person's hand. A layer of scrubbing bristles built into the entire palm surface and finger surface of the glove including the tips of the finger and thumb stalls, along the sides of the finger and thumb stalls, as well as along the side of the palm portion of the glove. The invention facilitating the cleaning of bath tubs and sinks with their awkward and hard to reach places as well as other surfaces and other cleaning actions.

## Figures

